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Message Text

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---------- 104620
R 070401Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030796

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XGIT

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF WESTERN COMMUNISM IN PERMREPS
-- LUNCH

REF: NATO 567

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS MISSION'S DESIRE, EXPRESSED IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL, FOR SPECIFIC GUIDANCE FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES POSED BY INCREASED STRENGTH OF WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES. SINCE US HAS RAISED THIS RANGE OF PROBLEMS IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECENT HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS, WE PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT TO

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STIMULATE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION IN NATO AT THE PRESENT TIME. SHOULD ALLIES PURSUE DISCUSSION OPENED BY KILLICK DURING LAST PERMREPS LUNCHEON, WE WILL OF COURSE CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF MAKING A SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION, BASED ON CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THE INTERIM, YOU SHOULD BE GUIDED BY CONTENTS OF STATE 7807, STATE 24977 AND CFR ISSUE NUMBER 5, AND MAY ALSO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE CONTACTS OR AMBASSADORS LUNCHEON.

-- A. CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS IN THE CHARACTER OF WESTERN COMMUNIST PARTIES THAT HAVE MADE THEM MORE ATTRACTIVE TO THE PUBLIC AND COMMUNIST POLITICAL GAINS IN WESTERN EUROPE POSE A NEW SITUATION WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED. CAREFUL CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNIST MEMBERSHIP IN NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

-- B. WE VIEW THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH UTMOST MISGIVINGS. COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WOULD ALTER THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

-- C. WE MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD RESULT IN "NEUTRALIST" POLICIES ON THE PART OF NATO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. OUR DETENTE POLICIES ARE BASED ON THE ESSENTIAL BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE WEST AND AN UNDIMINISHED NATO MILITARY ROLE REMAINS INDISPEN-SABLE FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP. THESE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION COULD BE PLACED IN QUESTION IF COMMUNIST PARTIES REACH MAJOR POWER POSITIONS IN WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES.

-- D. THE ABILITIES OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE DEFENSE WOULD INEVITABLY BE DILUTED BY COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION AT A TIME WHEN SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH CONTINUES TO GROW. THIS WOULD HAVE A DANGEROUS EFFECT ON THE EUROPEAN BALANCE AND ON PROSPECTS FOR EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS.

-- E. THE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE YEARS BETWEEN THE US AND ITS WESTERN EUROPEAN CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN IF COMMUNISTS WERE TO OCCUPY KEY GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS IN ALLIED COUNTRIES. ONE COULD EXPECT DIMINISHING US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATO AND A WEAKENING OF TRANS-ATLANTIC POLITICAL TIES. THE US CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THE ISSUE OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IS FUNDAMENTAL TO WESTERN SECURITY.
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